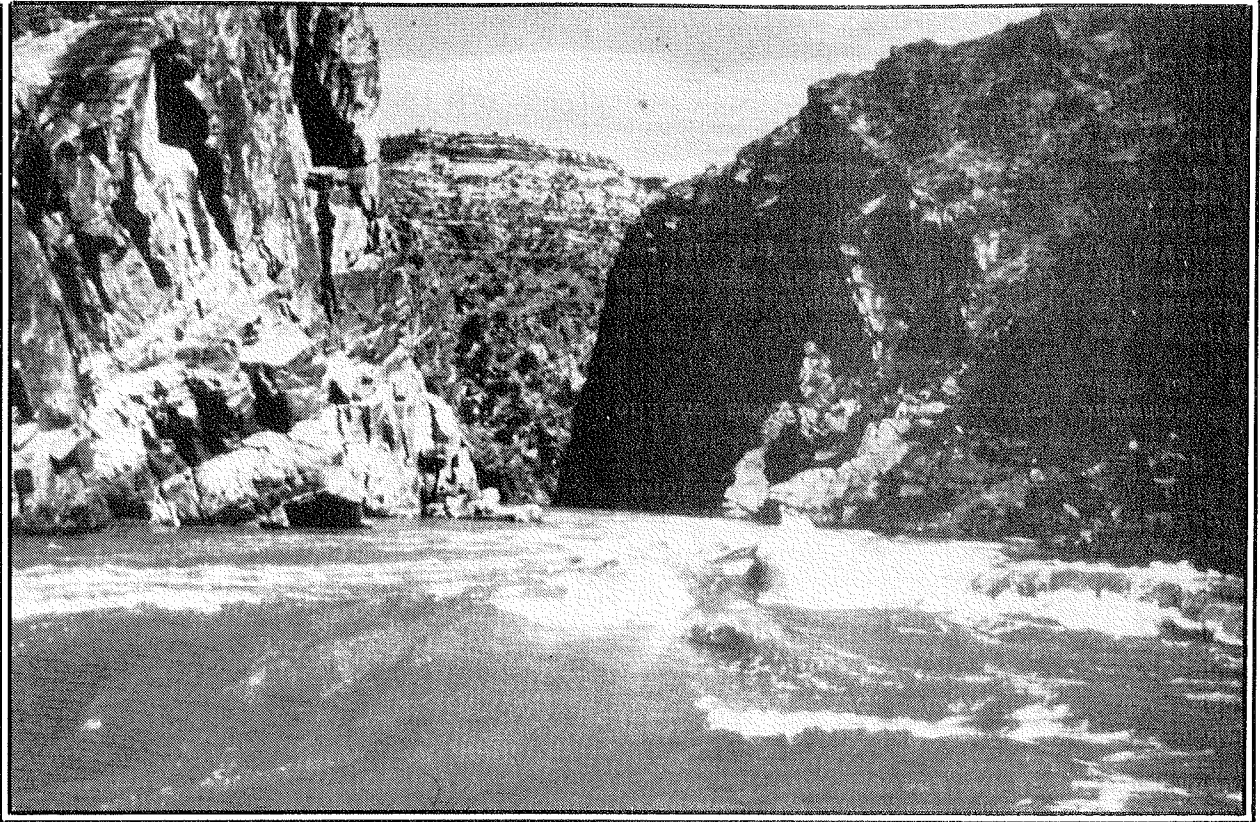

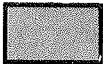
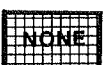


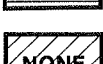


Westwater Canyon WSA



WESTWATER CANYON WSA

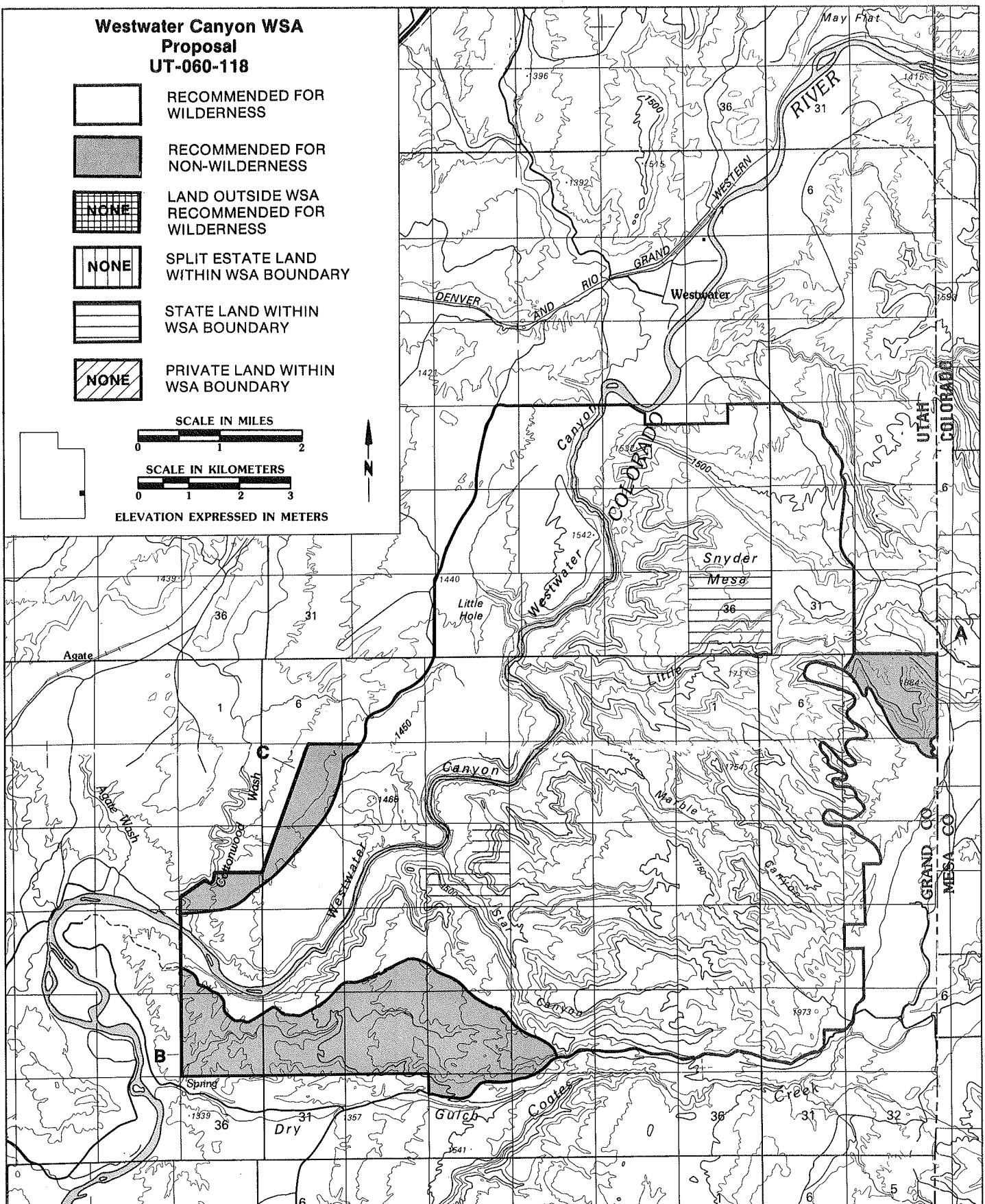
Westwater Canyon WSA Proposal UT-060-118

-  RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS
-  RECOMMENDED FOR NON-WILDERNESS
-  NONE LAND OUTSIDE WSA RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS
-  NONE SPLIT ESTATE LAND WITHIN WSA BOUNDARY
-  STATE LAND WITHIN WSA BOUNDARY
-  NONE PRIVATE LAND WITHIN WSA BOUNDARY

SCALE IN MILES
0 1 2

SCALE IN KILOMETERS
0 1 2 3

ELEVATION EXPRESSED IN METERS



R. 24 E.

R. 25 E.

October 1991

WESTWATER CANYON WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

1. THE STUDY AREA: 31,160 acres

The Westwater Canyon Wilderness Study Area (WSA) (UT-060-118) is in Grand County, about 25 miles west of Grand Junction, Colorado (population 20,170) and 30 miles northeast of Moab, Utah (population 5,333). The study area extends about 8 miles from north to south and 8 miles from east to west. Although it is only 7 miles southeast of Interstate Highway 70 (I-70), the WSA is difficult to reach. The WSA is named for Westwater Canyon on the Colorado River, which flows through the study area from north to southwest. About 1.5 miles of the eastern boundary is on the Utah-Colorado state line.

The boundaries of the WSA are along roads and the edges of non-Federal lands (see Map). The WSA contains 31,160 acres of public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management. Two State sections (1,120 acres) are inheld within the WSA and are in the portion of the WSA recommended for wilderness designation (see Table 1).

The principle feature of the WSA is the scenic Westwater Canyon of the Colorado River, famous for whitewater river running opportunities. Westwater Canyon is a narrow inner gorge cut through dense, dark crystalline rocks, and an enclosing, wider canyon 600 feet deep, with sheer red walls.

**TABLE 1
LAND STATUS AND ACREAGE SUMMARY IN THE STUDY AREA^a**

WITHIN THE WSA	ACRES
BLM (surface and subsurface)	31,160
Split-Estate (BLM surface only)	0
In-holdings (State, Private)	1,120
Total	32,280
WITHIN THE RECOMMENDED WILDERNESS BOUNDARY	
BLM (within the WSA)	26,000
BLM (outside the WSA)	0
Split-Estate (within the WSA)	0
Split-Estate (outside the WSA)	0
Total BLM land recommended for wilderness	26,000
In-holdings (State, private)	1,120
WITHIN THE AREA NOT RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS	
BLM	5,160
Split-Estate	0
Total BLM land not recommended for wilderness	5,160
In-holdings (State, Private)	0

Source: BLM File Data

^a The Appendix is a detailed table of in-holdings included within the portion of the WSA recommended for designation.

WESTWATER CANYON WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

Above the canyons are tablelands, dissected by deep tributary canyons that drain into the Colorado River. Elevations range from 4,100 feet on the Colorado River, at the southwestern edge of the WSA, to 6,500 feet in the northwestern part of the WSA. Pinyon-juniper woodland is the dominant vegetation in about half of the WSA; juniper and sagebrush, pinyon-juniper with blackbrush, and sagebrush cover the remainder of the area.

The WSA was studied under Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and was included in the Utah BLM Statewide Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) finalized in November 1990. Three alternatives were analyzed in the EIS: a partial wilderness alternative, where 26,000 acres would be designated as wilderness and 5,160 acres would be released for uses other than wilderness, which is the recommendation in this report; a no action (no wilderness) alternative; and an all wilderness alternative.

2. RECOMMENDATION AND RATIONALE:

- 26,000 acres
(recommended for wilderness)
- 5,160 acres
(not recommended for wilderness)

The recommendation for this WSA is to designate 26,000 acres as wilderness and to release the remaining 5,160 acres for uses other than wilderness. Designation of the entire area as wilderness is considered to be the environmentally preferable alternative as it would result in the least change from the natural environment over the long term. The alternative selected, however, would be implemented in a manner which would utilize all practical means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts. The recommendation will further apply to any additional in-holding acreage acquired through purchase or exchange with willing owners. The Appendix lists all in-holdings and provides additional information on acquisition.

All of the recommended portion is in a natural condition, 79 percent of the area has outstanding opportunities for solitude, and 30 percent has outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. The river corridor, with river running

and related camping and hiking, is the main recreational attraction.

Potential mineral conflicts would concern placer gold mining, but large quantities of placer gold are unlikely in the WSA as only small amounts of potentially gold-bearing gravel are present. No significant conflicts exist with other mineral-related interests or other uses of land and resources.

Water flows in the Colorado River are influenced by upstream and downstream use requirements under terms of the Colorado River Compact. Downstream obligations are sufficient to assure that flows through the Westwater segment of the river would be sufficient to maintain wilderness values. A Federal reserved water right would therefore not be necessary.

All of the portion of the WSA that is not recommended for wilderness designation is natural but lacks outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. The nonrecommended area (Areas A, B and C) are not recommended for wilderness designation because they have less than outstanding wilderness characteristics. Area A forms a small peninsula that is nearly isolated from the remainder of the study area by roads that lead to private land on the north and a large chained area to the south. Area B is nearly separated from the remainder of the study area by a 7-mile-long, constructed but not maintained, vehicle route that would serve as a more identifiable boundary than the legal subdivision boundary located to the south. Area C is a relatively flat, open area that does not add appreciably to the wilderness values of the WSA.

3. CRITERIA CONSIDERED IN DEVELOPING THE WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATION

Wilderness Characteristics

A. Naturalness

Naturalness is defined as an attribute in which the evidence of man is substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor and where minor imprints of man exhibit no cumulative impact that is substantially noticeable. The entire WSA meets the standard for naturalness and

WESTWATER CANYON WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

the area generally appears to be unaltered by man. Imprints total less than 50 acres. These imprints, both pre-FLPMA and post-FLPMA, are not substantially noticeable within the unit as a whole.

The area generally appears to be unaltered by man except for the following pre-FLPMA imprints: (1) a vehicle way 7 miles long, constructed but not maintained, south of the Colorado River and west of Star Canyon; (2) a vehicle way less than 1 mile long that runs through a post-FLPMA exclosure on the south edge of the Colorado River at the west end of the WSA; (3) a vehicle way about 3 miles long, not maintained and presently revegetating, that runs west of Picture Gallery Ranch for about 3 miles; (4) a vehicle way about 2 miles long, recently used for access to placer claims but presently revegetating, which crosses a sandy area to Miner's Cabin; (5) a vehicle way 2 miles long, with some revegetation, to Little Hole; (6) a vehicle way 2 miles long, to the canyon rim south of Little Hole; (7) a vehicle way 1 mile long, presently revegetating, to the north end of Big Hole; (8) a vehicle way 4 miles long, showing some revegetation, that crosses slickrock and sands from the WSA's northwest boundary road, with a 0.5-mile unconstructed spur vehicle way leading south to the canyon rim; (9) a 15-foot square fence exclosure near the head of Big Hole, covering less than one acre; (10) an 8-foot square fenced exclosure near the western boundary of the WSA south of the Colorado River, covering less than 1 acre; (11) Miner's Cabin, a historic site at the north end of the WSA near the river, covering less than 1 acre; (12) evidence of historic placer claims, consisting of old equipment and rubble, covering about 5 acres in the vicinity of Miner's Cabin; (13) Outlaw Cave, a historic site on the Colorado River covering less than 1 acre; and (14) three livestock reservoirs covering less than 1 acre.

Since establishment of the WSA, two activities have occurred within the WSA, which affected naturalness: (1) a 20-acre wildlife habitat exclosure fence for riparian studies was constructed by BLM in May, 1982 on the south side of the Colorado River near the western boundary of the WSA; and (2) a small amount of pick and shovel work was com-

pleted on a placer gold claim in the northeastern portion of the WSA. The work was examined and there was not enough surface disturbance to warrant a reclamation plan. The claims are still considered active.

B. Solitude

About 20,600 acres (66 percent) of the WSA have opportunities for solitude that meet the outstanding criterion for lands under wilderness review. The remainder of the WSA, about 10,560 acres (34 percent), does not meet the criterion to be considered outstanding.

The size and configuration of the WSA can give visitors a feeling of vastness. The terrain also provides solitude by screening, which is excellent within the several canyon systems and in Big Hole. Within the canyons, parties traveling in opposite directions might encounter sights or sounds of one another, but the diversity of travel routes into side canyons or alcoves tend to dissipate encounters. Closely-spaced parties, boating or camping on the Colorado River, tend to be aware of each other, but the winding nature of Westwater Canyon and the rapids tend to reduce contacts while floating the river. Downstream, parties are more likely to be aware of each other because of the longer lines of sight as the river broadens. Topographic screening is less pronounced north of the river and along the southwestern boundary.

Screening by vegetation alone does not provide significant solitude within the WSA, but it augments terrain in some areas. Much of the WSA is rock outcrop or has sparse pinyon-juniper vegetation. In riparian areas or on ridge top areas that have dense pinyon-juniper woodland screening potential is greater. Vegetation and terrain provide sufficient screening on most of the WSA to give visitors opportunities for seclusion.

Screening is insufficient to provide seclusion on 10,560 acres or 34 percent of the WSA in the following areas: (1) the 6,200-acre area north of the Colorado River Canyon rim; (2) the 3,700-acre area south of the canyon rim and west of Star Canyon; (3) the 160-acre flats near Picture Gallery Ranch; and

WESTWATER CANYON WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

(4) the 500-acre area southeast of Snyder Mesa near the Colorado state line.

The heavy recreation use in Westwater Canyon during the river-running season detracts from the feeling of seclusion. Campsites are assigned. Near maximum allowed use occurs throughout the summer season. Crowding increases at times of high water, when some of the available campsites are flooded. The Little Dolores, Star, and Marble side canyons provide limited dispersion opportunities to alleviate crowding along the river corridor. The number of permits issued by BLM could be reduced to improve solitude if necessary.

The WSA is remote, with few significant human intrusions nearby. Irrigated fields can be seen from several points along the edge of the WSA, but they are not significant visual intrusions. Solitude in portions of the WSA near Picture Gallery, Wild Ass, Westwater, Rose, and Shield ranches could be adversely affected by sights and sounds of ranch activities. A railroad about 1 mile north of the WSA could affect solitude along the northern boundary of the WSA. The railroad is visible from a few points on the northern side of the WSA. I-70 can be seen from a few places in the north end of the WSA, but the highway is about 4 miles away and does not significantly limit solitude in the WSA.

Views from the WSA of distant scenic areas are possible, but most recreational use is in canyons where views are confined. Probable vistas from high points such as the north rim of the Colorado River Canyon or Snyder Mesa would include the Uncompahgre Uplift (in Colorado) to the east, Book Cliffs to the north, and the La Sal Mountains to the southwest.

C. Primitive and Unconfined Recreation

Approximately 7,760 acres, 25 percent of the WSA, meet the requirement for outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, whereas these standards are not met on 23,400 acres, or 75 percent of the WSA.

Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation are outstanding within

parts of the WSA, primarily because of the whitewater river running potential and related camping and hiking activities. Outstanding opportunities for challenging hiking, rock scrambling, and primitive camping also exist in side canyons, where the sheer cliffs and dissected terrain allow numerous alternate hiking routes.

Opportunities for primitive recreation are not outstanding in about 6,200 acres north of the Colorado River Canyon rim; on 3,700 acres south of the canyon rim and west of Star Canyon; on 3,800 acres in the vicinity of Snyder Mesa; nor on 9,700 acres on the mesa tops between Star and Marble Canyons and the flat areas near ranches.

D. Special Features

The Colorado River through Westwater Canyon has been studied and recommended for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System as a wild river. Westwater Canyon has high scenic quality and unique geologic features. Two prominent geologic features are found in the WSA: a black pre-Cambrian gneissic rock and a large fault across the head of Westwater Canyon. Similar exposure of pre-Cambrian rock is found along the Colorado River only within the Grand Canyon and at small outcroppings just above Westwater Canyon. The WSA has archaeological and historical sites that are considered special features.

Approximately 80 percent (24,928 acres) of the WSA is rated as outstanding for scenic quality.

The WSA has year-round populations of cougar and desert bighorn sheep, which are wildlife species associated with wilderness. Six animal species (black-footed ferret, peregrine falcon, bald eagle, Colorado squawfish, humpback chub, and bonytail chub) which are listed as endangered occur, or may occur, in the WSA. Eight animal species and one plant species that are considered sensitive also occur, or may occur, in the WSA. One of these Federally listed sensitive species, the razorback sucker, has been designated as endangered in Utah by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

WESTWATER CANYON WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

Refer to Appendix 4 and the Affected Environment, Vegetation and Wildlife Including Special Status Species sections of the Utah BLM Statewide Wilderness Final EIS for additional information.

Diversity in the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS)

A. Expanding the Diversity of Natural Systems and Features as Represented by Ecosystems

Wilderness designation of this WSA would not add a combination of potential natural vegetation (PNV) ecosystems not presently represented in the NWPS.

PNV is the vegetative type that would eventually become climax vegetation if not altered by human interference, and is not necessarily the vegetation that is currently present in an area.

The WSA is in the Colorado Plateau Province/Ecoregion. The PNV in the WSA is juniper-pinyon woodland (21,812 acres) and saltbush-greasewood (9,348 acres). Both PNV types are represented in the NWPS and in other BLM study areas. The saltbush-greasewood PNV is represented in the NWPS only in Utah, however. This information is summarized in Table 2 from data compiled in December 1989.

B. Assessing the Opportunities for Solitude or Primitive Recreation within a Days Driving Time (Five Hours) of Major Population Centers

The WSA is within a 5-hour drive of the Salt Lake City-Ogden, Utah and the Provo-Orem, Utah standard metropolitan statistical areas. Table 3 summarizes the number and acreage of designated wilderness and other BLM study areas within a 5-hour drive of these population centers.

**TABLE 2
ECOSYSTEM REPRESENTATION**

BAILEY-KUCHLER CLASSIFICATION (PNV)	NWPS AREAS		OTHER BLM STUDIES	
	AREAS	ACRES	AREAS	ACRES
NATIONWIDE (COLORADO PLATEAU PROVINCE)				
Juniper-Pinyon Woodland	11	1,401,745	84	2,122,193
Saltbush-Greasewood	1	20,000	17	384,655
UTAH (COLORADO PLATEAU PROVINCE)				
Juniper-Pinyon Woodland	1	26,000	53	1,684,386
Saltbush-Greasewood	1	20,000	17	384,655

Source: BLM File Data.

**TABLE 3
WILDERNESS OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESIDENTS OF MAJOR POPULATION CENTERS**

POPULATION CENTERS	NWPS AREAS		OTHER BLM STUDIES	
	AREAS	ACRES	AREAS	ACRES
Salt Lake City-Ogden, Utah	11	1,099,962	78	2,228,515
Provo-Orem, Utah	11	721,793	90	2,755,708

Source: BLM File Data.

WESTWATER CANYON WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

C. Balancing the Geographic Distribution of Wilderness Areas

The Westwater Canyon WSA could contribute to balancing the geographic distribution of wilderness areas within the NWPS. As of January 1987, the NWPS included 44 areas comprising 3,443,330 acres in Utah and in Colorado, the adjacent state nearest the WSA.

A Westwater Canyon Wilderness would supplement the NWPS in the Canyonlands Section of the Colorado Plateau, however, where there are just two established wilderness areas, totaling 70,751 acres. There are two designated wilderness areas within 100 miles of the WSA. To the south, is the 45,000-acre Dark Canyon Wilderness (U.S. Forest Service [FS]), and to the southeast, in Colorado, is the 11,180-acre Black Canyon of the Gunnison Wilderness (National Park Service [NPS]).

Manageability (The area must be capable of being effectively managed to preserve its wilderness character.)

The entire WSA, including the portion recommended for wilderness designation could be effectively managed to protect the wilderness values now in the area. Livestock grazing and maintenance of fences and three livestock reservoirs would continue in the WSA but would not significantly affect the wilderness values of the area.

There are no mineral leases in the area, and new leases would not be issued. There are 260 acres of mining claims in the recommended portion of the WSA. There is some potential for small placer gold deposits in the WSA, but it is expected that only a small portion of these and future claims existing at the time of designation would be valid and would be explored and possibly developed. Any disturbance from placer gold activities is expected to be small and would not affect the overall manageability of the area.

There are two in-held State sections (1,120 acres) in the recommended part of the study area that could create additional manageability problems because BLM would be required to provide reasonable access to State land and would have

no control over activities on State land. However, the potential for development and the need for access to the State in-holdings is low.

Energy and Mineral Resource Values

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the U.S. Bureau of Mines (USBM) prepared a mineral assessment report for the Westwater Canyon WSA (USGS Bulletin 1736-C, Robert P. Dickerson et al., 1988). The report indicates that subeconomic placer gold deposits were identified at existing mining claims in the WSA. The mineral resource potential is high for placer gold adjacent to the Colorado River and in terrace deposits above it. The resource potential is moderate in the southern part of the WSA for gold, silver, copper, and barite in veins. No resource potential for uranium in the Morrison Formation, which is uranium-bearing elsewhere in the vicinity, exists in the WSA because the formation has been eroded away. The resource potential is low for gold, silver, mercury, copper, and uranium in the Chinle Formation, and for chromium, nickel, and cobalt resources in Precambrian rocks. Geological, geochemical, and geophysical studies indicate a low energy resource potential for undiscovered oil, natural gas, carbon dioxide, and geothermal energy. There is no resource potential for coal.

Impacts on Resources

The comparative impact table (Table 4) summarizes the effects on pertinent resources for alternatives considered including designation or nondesignation of the area as wilderness.

Local Social and Economic Considerations

With BLM's recommended partial wilderness designation, present economic trends and conditions would not be significantly affected. Recreation-related sales, including commercial river-based recreation, could contribute up to \$1,510,824 annually to the local economy by the year 2020. The WSA could contribute up to \$12,100 annually in local livestock sales and \$932 in Federal and State oil and gas leasing revenues of up to \$50,498 per year could be foregone. Recreational river use would continue to

WESTWATER CANYON WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

provide about \$32,217 in Federal revenues annually.

Summary of WSA-Specific Comments

Public involvement has occurred throughout the wilderness review process. Comments received during the early stages of the EIS preparation were used to develop significant study issues and alternatives for the ultimate management of the WSA.

During formal public review of the Draft EIS, a total of 48 inputs specifically addressing this WSA were received from 51 commenters, including oral statements received at 17 public hearings on the EIS. Each letter or oral testimony was considered to be one input. Duplicate letters or oral statements by the same commenter were not counted as additional inputs or signatures. Each individual was credited with one signature or testimony regardless of the number of inputs. In general, 41 commenters supported wilderness designation for part or all of the WSA, while three commenters were opposed. Seven commenters addressed the relative merits of the EIS but took no formal position on wilderness designation.

Those favoring wilderness commented on the special features and opportunities for primitive recreation in the WSA. The majority of those commenting in favor of wilderness were from urban Utah and outside the state.

Those opposing wilderness were concerned that wilderness would preclude mineral exploration and development, restrict public access, and conflict with motorized recreation. Most of those opposing wilderness designation were from rural Utah.

Two Federal agencies, the USBM and NPS, commented on the Draft EIS for this WSA but expressed no opinion on wilderness designation. The USBM commented that the petroleum potential of the WSA has not been tested and should be characterized as "unexplored at depth" rather than unfavorable. The NPS suggested that BLM address the Westwater fossil site as a potential national natural landmark.

No comment letters were received on the Final EIS.

There are two State sections (1,120 acres) in the WSA. In commenting on the Draft EIS, the State of Utah expressed general opposition to wilderness designation, but did not take a definite position regarding wilderness designation for the WSA. The State commented that the Westwater Canyon WSA has some of the best wilderness values in the region and a low degree of conflict. The State noted that the recreational values of the Colorado River have long been recognized and provide an economic contribution to the river running industry. According to the State, conflicts are minor for all mineral values but there is potential for hydroelectric development on the Colorado River. The State also noted that hydroelectric development would be in high conflict with the established recreational industry on the river and with endangered species habitat. The State further pointed out a map discrepancy, questioned the analysis of cultural resources and suggested that uranium/vanadium and copper-bearing formations needed further investigation.

The Westwater Canyon WSA is in Grand County. The Grand County Master Plan does not specifically address the WSA. The plan generally emphasizes continuation of present uses and maximizing mineral development. The Grand County Commission is opposed to wilderness designation and has endorsed the Consolidated Local Government Response to Wilderness that opposes wilderness designation of BLM lands in Utah. In commenting on the Draft EIS, the Commission stated that the Westwater Canyon WSA can be effectively managed according to the BLM Grand Resource Management Plan (RMP) to protect important resource values while allowing legitimate resource uses. The Commission pointed out that the RMP already includes vehicle closures, restrictions on oil and gas leasing, and mining claim withdrawals. The Commission has endorsed designation of the Colorado River through Westwater Canyon as a recreational river.

WESTWATER CANYON WSA

Table 4
Comparative Summary of Impacts by Alternative

Issue Topic	Alternatives		
	Recommendation Partial Wilderness (26,000 Acres)	No Action/No Wilderness	All Wilderness (31,160 Acres)
Impacts on Wilderness Values	Wilderness values would be preserved in the designated area which is approximately 83 percent of the WSA. Naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be directly lost on 500 acres and indirectly and temporarily reduced in quality on up to 1,246 acres. All of the impact would be in the nondesignated area. Special features would be preserved with the exception of 50 acres of Class A scenery that would be burned and reseeded.	Wilderness values would not be protected by wilderness designation, loss would occur as intrusions increase. In the foreseeable future, naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation would be directly lost on about 500 acres and indirectly and temporarily reduced in quality on up to 1,246 acres of the WSA due to a prescribed burning and seeding project. Most special features (with the exception of 50 acres of Class A scenery which would be disturbed) would not be significantly affected. Continued vehicular use of 20.5 miles of ways would detract from opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.	Wilderness designation would preserve the wilderness values in the WSA because surface disturbing activities would not occur following wilderness designation.

WESTWATER CANYON WSA

Table 4 (Continued)
Comparative Summary of Impacts by Alternative

Issue Topic	Alternatives		
	Recommendation Partial Wilderness (26,000 Acres)	No Action/No Wilderness	All Wilderness (31,160 Acres)
Impacts on Vegetation	Impacts would be about the same as with the No Action/No Wilderness Alternative because approximately 500 acres of prescribed burn and seeding would be allowed. About 1.6 percent of the vegetation in the WSA would be altered under this alternative.	Vegetation would be altered on 1.6 percent of the WSA because this alternative would allow 500 acres of prescribed burn and seeding. This would change pinyon and juniper woodland and sagebrush vegetation into grass-shrub vegetation. Threatened and endangered or other special status plant species would not be significantly affected because only one endemic plant species is known to grow in the WSA and protective measures would be required.	Vegetation types and special status plant species would be protected and preserved because no surface-disturbance is projected following wilderness designation.
	Implementation of the 500-acre burning and seeding project would disturb 1.6 percent of the wildlife habitat in the WSA. Some wildlife species would benefit from additional forage and ecotones. Vegetation types and special status species would receive additional protection on 83 percent of the WSA.	Burning and seeding would disturb 1.6 percent (500 acres) of wildlife habitat in the WSA. Implementation of the 500-acre land burning and seeding project would benefit some wildlife species and population levels by providing additional forage and ecotones. Endangered, threatened, or other special status animal species would not be significantly affected because they generally are not found in the area that would be burned, and protective measures would be required.	None of the wildlife habitat in the WSA would be disturbed. Wilderness designation would preclude the proposed burning and seeding project and the potential wildlife benefits from additional forage and ecotones would be foregone. Most wildlife species would benefit from provision of solitude and elimination of ORV use and surface-disturbance. Threatened, endangered and other special status species would be preserved.

WESTWATER CANYON WSA

Table 4 (Continued)
Comparative Summary of Impacts by Alternative

Issue Topic	Alternatives		
	Recommendation Partial Wilderness (26,000 Acres)	No Action/No Wilderness	All Wilderness (31,160 Acres)
Impacts on Livestock Management	<p>Impacts on access for livestock management and predator control would be about the same as with the All Wilderness Alternative because access would be restricted on the 3 to 4 miles of ways used for livestock management on the east side of the river, and restrictions would be placed on methods of predator control on 83 percent of the WSA. An estimated 63 AUMs of additional forage could be produced because 500 acres would be burned and seeded in the nondesignated area.</p>	<p>Livestock grazing levels and management practices would not be affected because grazing would continue without restriction for protection of wilderness values. The proposed 500-acre burning and seeding would provide 63 additional AUMs.</p>	<p>The WSA has approximately 22.5 miles of ways; three to 4 miles of these ways on the east side of the Colorado River are used by permittees for livestock management during the grazing season, for distribution of salt, and to do maintenance on existing rangeland improvement projects. Restrictions of vehicle use on these ways would be an inconvenience to permittees. Five permittees would be adversely affected by increases in cost and time to manage livestock. Predator control is important to the five permittees, approximately 70 percent of past predator control has been done with cyanide guns (M-44s), which are prohibited in wilderness areas. The prohibition of this control method may increase livestock losses, mainly for three permittees that graze sheep in the WSA. The loss of the 500-acre seeding would mean the loss of 63 AUMs of forage on the public land.</p>

WESTWATER CANYON WSA

Table 4 (Continued)
Comparative Summary of Impacts by Alternative

Alternatives			
Issue Topic	Recommendation	No Action/No Wilderness	All Wilderness
	Partial Wilderness (26,000 Acres)		(31,160 Acres)
Impacts on Recreation	<p>River-based recreation use would remain constant. The wild and scenic values of the portion of the Colorado River that flows through the WSA would be in the designated area and would receive additional protection. Approximately 30 visitor days of present ORV use would be precluded initially. This would not significantly reduce ORV use on a regional basis. Overall, land-based recreation would increase to be between 917 and 2,640 visitor days per year by the year 2020.</p>	<p>Recreational use of the Colorado River would be controlled by BLM and would continue at about 14,000 visitor days per year. Annual land-based recreational use in the WSA would increase from the present 470 visitor days to be between 980 and 2,820 visitor days by the year 2020. About 13 percent of the land-based recreation use would involve vehicle access on about 20.5 miles of existing ways.</p>	<p>River-based recreation on the Colorado River in the WSA would continue at about 14,000 visitor days per year because use is near maximum levels and would be controlled by BLM. The wild and scenic values of this portion of the Colorado River would receive additional protection. Land-based primitive recreation in the WSA is expected to increase to be between 855 and 2,260 annual visitor days by the year 2020. The present 60 visitor days of ORV use and the potential for increases in ORV use would be eliminated. ORV use would not decline on a regional basis.</p>
Impacts on Local Economic Conditions	<p>Economic trends and conditions would not be significantly affected. Recreation related sales, including commercial river-based recreation, could contribute up to \$1,510,824 annually to the local economy by the year 2020. The WSA could contribute up to \$12,100 annually in local livestock sales and \$932 in Federal and State oil and gas leasing revenues of up to \$50,498 per year could be foregone. Recreational river use would continue to provide about \$32,217 in Federal revenues annually.</p>	<p>Present economic conditions would not be affected. Recreation-related sales including commercial river based recreation could contribute up to \$1,511,562 annually to the local economy by the year 2020. The WSA could contribute up to \$12,100 annually in local livestock sales and \$932 in Federal grazing fees. Although unlikely, oil and gas leasing revenues could contribute up to \$60,818 per year in Federal and State revenues. Federal fees collected from private and commercial river use would continue to be about \$32,217 annually.</p>	<p>Present economic conditions would not be significantly affected. Recreation-related sales, including commercial river-based recreation, could contribute up to \$1,510,086 annually to the local economy by the year 2020. The WSA would continue to contribute up to \$10,900 annually in local livestock sales and \$840 in Federal grazing fees. Potential for \$1,260 in livestock sales and \$315 in Federal grazing fees would be foregone. Although unlikely, potential annual Federal and State oil and gas leasing revenues of up to \$60,818 per year could be foregone.</p>

WESTWATER CANYON WILDERNESS STUDY AREA

Appendix
Estimated Costs of Acquisition of Non-Federal Holdings Within Areas Recommended for Designation ^a

Legal Description (Prior to any Subdivision)	Total Acreage	Number of Owners (If Parcel has been subdivided)	Type of Ownership by Estate (Federal, State, Private, Other) (Surface Estate) (Subsurface Estate)	Presently Proposed for Acquisition (Yes, No)	Preferred Method of Acquisition (Purchase, Exchange, Other)	Estimated Cost of Acquisition (Land Costs)	Estimated Cost of Acquisition (Processing Costs)
T. 20 S., R. 25 E., Sec. 36	640.00		State	No	Exchange		\$2,000
T. 21 S., R. 25 E., Sec. 16, E1/2, SW	480.00		State	No	Exchange		\$1,500

^a The estimated costs listed in this appendix in no way represent a Federal appraised value of the land or mineral estate, but are rough estimates based on sales or exchanges of lands or mineral estates with similar characteristics to those included in the WSA. The estimates are for purposes of establishing a range of potential costs to the government of acquiring non-Federal holdings and in no way represent an offer to purchase or exchange at the cost estimate included in this appendix.